

Minutes
King County Rural Forest Commission
October 17, 2001
Mercerview Community Center

Commissioners present: Jean Bouffard, Rudy Edwards, Louis Kahn, Steve Ketz, Bill Kombol, Ken Konigsmark, Fred McCarty, Doug McClelland, Dave Warren

Commissioners absent: Gordon Bradley, Andrew Schwarz

Exofficio members: Connie Blumen, Steve Boyce

Staff: Kathy Creahan, Michael Huddleston, Roberta King, Peggy Leonard, Bill Loeber, Ikuno Masterson, Kristi McClelland, Benj Wadsworth

Guests: Dennis Dart, Doug Howell, Becky Kelley, Larry Nussbaum, Bob Prolman, Tim Seifert, Bruce Stanford, Laurie Wayburn

Doug McClelland called the meeting to order at 10:10 am.

Minutes Approval

Due to lack of a quorum, adoption of the minutes was postponed until the November meeting. Fred McCarty commented that he had suggested the need for BPA to have redundancy in the power supply system when deciding where to locate the power line through the Cedar River Watershed.

Chair Report

Ken Konigsmark gave a summary of the meeting between he, Doug McClelland, Steve Ketz, Gordon Bradley, and County Forestry staff about County forestland management and how it plays into the reorganization of DNR and Parks. The County needs to do a thorough inventory of what it owns. The County needs to determine how undeveloped forestland will be managed – as parks or for forestry. Specific management plans need to be developed for those properties in need of forest management. Doug suggested that there needs to be a clear “forest vision” or direction, and that the County should be careful not to reinvent the wheel.

Staff Report

Benj Wadsworth updated the Commission on the County's position with regard to the BPA power line proposal. The County feels that there should be mitigation if the chosen alternative results in the loss of forestland.

There will be a one-day workshop on forest cooperatives on November 3 on Vashon Island.

The forestry staff showed Patrick Moore's video, "Trees are the Answer," to colleagues at WLRD. There was a fair amount of controversy following the video, suggesting that forestry is still a controversial topic among staff at King County. If anyone would like to see the video, they should contact Benj.

Ken Konigsmark announced that the North Bend City Council voted last night to issue Councilmatic bonds to purchase Tollgate farm.

Benj attended the first meeting of the Friends of Rock Creek National Park Service grant. He feels it could be a very productive effort, but he was surprised that many of the representatives from the cities did not seem concerned about conserving the forest outside their boundaries. He feels that the message that forests have an impact on the cities needs to be made more strongly.

Ken gave an update on Plum Creeks activity in Kittitas County. They are rapidly selling their land to a group called Saphire Skies that is selling the land for development.

Carbon Sequestration

Notes from Laurie Wayburn's presentation about forestland conversion and carbon sequestration are attached (paper copies only).

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00